

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10150 291336Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-08

/075 W

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R 291240Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5618

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS CAIRO 10150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJ: CAIRO PRESS-CEASE-FIRE IMMINENT

REF: CAIRO 10123

1. SARG-PLO DAMASCUS TALKS. CAIRO PRESS UNANIMOUS JULY 29 THAT SARG-PLO AGREEMENT IS IMMINENT. PALESTINIAN SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS EXPECTING CEASE-FIRE ANNOUNCEMENT BY JULY 30, EVEN THOUGH CLARIFICATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED FROM SYRIANS, BOTH BY PLO AND BY RIGHTIST LEADERS.

2. KATA'IB VERSUS RIGHTISTS. PRESS BEGINS TO TALK OF "KATA'IB AND RIGHTIST" FORCES, APPARENTLY SINGLING KATA'IB OUT FROM CHAMOUNIST ISOLATIONISTS. GUMHURIYYA CLAIMS KATA'IB FORCES EVEN BURNED CHAMOUN'S PERSONAL CAR DURING FIRE FIGHT JULY 28.

3. PLOT TO KILL ARAFAT. PALESTINIAN SOURCES REPORTEDLY CLAIM SARG SOUGHT ASSASSINATE THREE SENIOR FATAH LEADERS (ARAFAT, ABU IYAD AND ABU JIHAD). PLOT MISCARRIED WHEN MIDDLE-RANK FATAH OFFICERS LEARNED OF IT.

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4. GOOD DAY FOR US. USG'S LOCAL IMAGE RE LEBANON IMPROVED SLIGHTLY WITH FRONT-PAGE AHAM ARTICLE HEADLINED: " ISRAEL ANGRY WITH US BECAUSE OF CONTACTS WITH PLO". FURTHER, UNNAMED KUWAITI PAPER IS QUOTED AS REPORTING USSR (I.E., NOT US, AS MANY EGYPTIANS SEEM TO BELIEVE) SUPPLYING CHRISTINA FORCES WITH ARMS AND AMMUNITION. AKHBAR PROVIDES THIRD PAT ON BACK FOR US BY CLAIMING CHAOUN HAS BEEN CRITICIZING AMERICAN POLICY IN LEBANON.

5. PRESS VIEW OF SARG. GOE CABINET CONDEMNATION OF SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION, COUPLED WITH CALL FOR ARAB LEAGUE SOLUTION (SEPTEL), IS DEFINITE OFFICIAL ESCALATION OF ANTI-SYRIAN PROPAGANDA, FIRST SUCH ESCALATION SINCE JUNE "RECONCILIATION" IN RIYADH. NEVERTHELESS, ASAD IS NOT ATTACKED AND EVEN AHAM EDITORIAL ON BA'ATHI IRRESPONSIBILITY IS NOT AS VIOLENT AS IT HAD BEEN EARLIER THIS YEAR.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO10150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760293-0669
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760711/aaaaairj.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAIRO 10123
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAIRO PRESS-CEASE-FIRE IMMINENT
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006